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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7308

BILL NUMBER: HB 1202

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 9, 2004

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Surveillance of Public Health Threats.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Lawson L

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
X FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill allows: (1) the State Department of Health to collect information concerning syndromes related to bioterrorism and other public health threats; and (2) the information to be used for counterterrorism purposes. The bill requires accredited schools or school corporations to report each day the number of students who are absent.

Effective Date: July 1, 2004.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (1) The bill requires the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) to establish reporting, monitoring, and preventive procedures for bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious disease, and public health threats and emergencies. The Epidemiology Resource Center (ERC), a part of the ISDH, operates the Disease Surveillance and Communicable Disease programs. Staff for the programs consist of 20 individuals, 9 of whom are located in the Bioterrorism Preparedness Districts established by the ISDH as part of the Public Health Preparedness and Bioterrorism Response Activities. The 9 positions are fully funded through the federal Bioterrorism Response program. The ISDH reports that it should be able to implement the requirements of this bill within current federal Bioterrorism Response funding (\$2.1 M).

(2) The bill requires health care providers or other organizations or entities that collect data and information concerning bioterrorism, related outbreaks of infectious disease, or public health threats and emergencies, to report information collected to the ISDH. ISDH would need to create procedures for health care providers or other organizations or entities to report the information. There may be minimal costs for these entities to implement the procedures. The actual increase in expenditures, however, is dependent on the administrative action taken by the ISDH.

(3) This bill also requires accredited schools and school corporations to develop and implement a system of notifying the ISDH of the daily number of students absent. Currently, Indiana schools collect information concerning the number of students absent each day. Each school employs a staff member whose responsibilities include monitoring attendance. It is expected that this individual would be responsible for forwarding attendance information to the school corporation.

Accredited schools and school corporations may realize expenditures when implementing the process to collect and forward information from schools in their corporations to the ISDH. These additional costs, however, are dependent on the administrative action taken by the ISDH.

Background: For the 2002-2003 school year, Indiana's average daily membership (ADM) consisted of 968,330 students, and public school enrollment totaled 1,001,961. Approximately 2,000 public schools were in operation within Indiana's 293 school corporations during that time.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana State Department of Health.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations; Local health care providers, organizations, and entities.

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